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REMARKS

Drawings

The drawings have been objected to by the official draftsman. Applicant has in response submitted replacement sheets for all the drawings.

Claim objections

Claim 3 has been objected to as failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant has cancelled claim 3 without prejudice, rendering the objection moot.

Claim 16 has been objected to as reciting "additionally" instead of "additional." Applicant has made this correction, and requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-11

Claim 1 is an independent claim, from which claims 2-11 ultimately depend. Claims 2-4 have been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 2 depends from claim 1, and Applicant has rewritten independent claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 2. Claim 2 has been cancelled, and claims 3-4 have been amended to depend from claim 1 instead of from cancelled claim 2. Applicant submits that claims 1 and 3-11 are now in allowable form.

Claims 12-22

Claim 12 is an independent claim, from which claims 13-22 ultimately depend. Claims 17-22 have been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 17 originally depended from claim 12. Applicant has rewritten independent claim 12 to include the limitations of claim 17. Claim 17 has been

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cancelled, and claims 18-19 have been amended to depend from claim 12 instead of from cancelled claim 17. Applicant submits that claims 12-16 and 18-22 are now in allowable form.

Claims 23-24

Claims 23 and 24 include all of the limitations of claim 12 expressly, and therefore Applicant submits that claims 23 and 24 are in allowable form for the same reasons that claim 12 is.

Claims 25-29

Claim 25 is an independent claim, from which claims 26-29 ultimately depend. Claims 28-29 have been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 28 originally depended from claim 25. Applicant has rewritten independent claim 25 to include the limitations of claim 28. Claim 28 has been cancelled, and claim 29 has been amended to depend from claim 25 instead of from cancelled claim 28. Applicant submits that claims 25-27 and 29 are now in allowable form.

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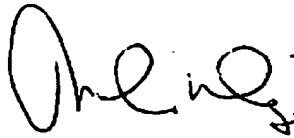
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Conclusion

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the pending claims in condition for allowance, and request that they so be allowed. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' Attorney so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. For these reasons, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



May 4, 2004

Date

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